



29TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Ian Biscoe writes...

Dear friends, you will have read Erika's newsletter last week talking about our sabbatical. Here is part two! For those who have been at ECB for more than seven years you will recognise this couple. We had a lovely few days in Brisbane with Chris Boyce (the previous Vicar



at ECB) and his wife Lyn. It was so good to spend time with family and friends across the globe in many different places. It has been such a privilege and gift to have time away to wait and listen to what the Lord wants to say to us personally and for us as a church. Everywhere we went there was a continuous theme of preparing ourselves, our hearts and minds, for what the Lord is going to do.

I believe the Lord wants to renew and revive His church across the world but that work begins quietly within our own hearts, often behind a closed door.

Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

What a wonderful promise, to be rewarded by our Father in heaven!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stepped up and made it possible for myself and Erika to relax and enjoy our time away on sabbatical with each other, family, friends and our Heavenly Father. There are too many to name individually here but thank you all very much.

One thing that was a concern before we left on sabbatical was our church financial situation. Tom Mitchell our treasurer informs me that the situation has improved significantly with 15 donors who have increased their giving in April and May which was good news and an answer to prayer!

During July we had our gift day which raised over £8k including gift aid. Thank you very much to Tom and the finance team for arranging this and all those who have so generously contributed to the Lord's work here at ECB now and in the past.

As part of our ongoing desire to improve our communications at ECB I am pleased to announce that Clive Collier has been appointed by the PCC as a volunteer staff support to the ECB admin team as Publicity and Events Coordinator starting in October. He will be concerned with scheduling and publicising the many events at ECB through print, online and Sunday services and increasing awareness for both church members and those in the community.

There are so many things I would like to share with you about our sabbatical and I hope to have the opportunity to do so over the coming months but for now, one powerful picture the Lord showed me during our sabbatical was of a 'fire starter'. **Psalm 97:3** says '**Fire goes before him**'. Let us pray for the fire of God to fall in our nation once again.

*Your servant in Christ,
Ian*



Notices

ONE LEV IN CONCERT

Thursday 10th October 7.30pm here at Emmanuel Church. An international music group from the Galilee in Israel whose sole desire is to bless and share hope to all and bring honour and blessing to the Lord. Speak to Andrew and Jeanette Collett for more information.

HARVEST CELEBRATION

4-6pm Saturday 12th October here at Emmanuel Church. Activities for children and adults around the theme of **Refuse, Re-use, Recycle, Upcycle**. Join us for our 'Grown in Bicester' meal. For more information contact the church office: **01869 320021** or email :administrator@emmanuelbicester.org.uk

MUMS MATTER

Thursday 17th October 8pm here at Emmanuel Church. An evening tailored especially for mums, designed to encourage, inspire and affirm who you are and this important role of parenting. Run by Clive and Helen Collier and Jackie Meek.

For more details and to register, please call the church office (**01869 320021**) or email: ministry support@emmanuelbicester.org.uk

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. If you need help with this or any other information about events, groups or who's who then please contact the church office. Details overleaf.

ECB DIARY

SUN 29th SEPTEMBER	12noon 7.00pm	Hospitality Sunday—Bring and Share Meal Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Apologetics week 4, Why trust the Bible? Leader: Helen Collier Preacher: Clive Collier
TUES 1st OCTOBER	9.00am 7.00pm	Prayers Prayers
WED 2nd OCTOBER	8.45-12noon 10.30am	Café open Oasis Small Group
THURS 3rd OCTOBER	8.45-12noon	Café open
FRI 4th OCTOBER	8.45-12noon 9.30am 7.00pm 7.30pm	Café open Cherish Group Prayers Contemplative Compline
SUN 6th OCTOBER	10.30am 7.00pm	Informal Worship, Stewardship Series Week 3 God's plan for giving Leader: Helen Collier Preacher: Clive Collier Evening Service (Refreshments at 6.30pm) Apologetics week 5, AI - Robots Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: Nigel Crook

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday